



**EQUESTRIAN
CANADA
ÉQUESTRE**

**EQUESTRIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
LEARN TO RIDE - WESTERN**

RUBRICS

v2016.01E

A STABLE MANAGEMENT		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Demonstrate haltering a horse and explain the fit	Maintain control of horse while confidently, efficiently haltering. Explain where noseband should lie on face, two (2) finger widths below the cheek bone. Understand how snug/loose the halter should feel.
2	Horse Handling Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead at walk • Lead at jog • Halt • Back up • Turn horse safely away from handler & towards handler 	<p>Walk with eyes forward, holding lead line approx. 6"-10" from halter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain position between horse's head and shoulder. • initiate with body cue, verbal if required, allow head freedom to move. <p>Jog - as in walk.</p> <p>Halt using body language, and verbal cue "whoa":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stand facing horse's shoulder while halted. <p>Back up - handler turns 180 degrees, maintains hold on lead line while crossing right arm across own body, cues horse to step straight backward keeping safe distance to horse, backs straight, stop cue, turn 180 degrees ready to move forward.</p> <p>Turn towards – handler switches lead to left hand, guides horse around to the left with right hand on horse's ribs to maintain safe distance between handler & horse</p> <p>Turn away – cues horse to move away to the right in a ½ turn (180 degrees) on the haunch</p> <p>Emphasis should be on use of body language & verbal aids first to cue horse, with intermittent pressure on lead if required</p>
3	Tying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slip/Quick Release knot 	Numerous methods but must be quick release; tie to solid object, short (12-18 inches) & wither high. Tuck lead line tail into knot if leaving horse unattended.
4	Demonstrate & explain proper grooming techniques & procedures.	
5	Explain three (3) important factors involved in proper hoof care.	
6	Saddling & Unsaddling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process • Proper fitting 	Process - blanket forward on wither, tucked up into gullet of saddle, cinch & off stirrup secured on horn, place saddle on blanket and slide back into optimum position, release & lower cinch & off stirrup from off side, tighten cinch in increments, back cinch last on & first

		off. Proper fit - saddle seat level on horse's back, space between wither/spine & saddle, saddle wide/narrow enough to sit off spine, no pressure points.
7	Bridling & Unbridling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process • Proper fitting 	Process - untie lead line or crossties, lay lead over right arm, halter to horse's neck, bridle held in either position described on page 16 of Rider 1 Manual, efficiently & gently bridle not knocking teeth, far then near ear, care to bend ears forward from base, not folded. Proper fit - chin groove to chin strap = two (2) fingers, throatlatch to jaw = one (1) hand's width.

B RIDING PHASE		
B.1 MOUNT-DISMOUNT		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Mount & Dismount: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mount in the correct, safe manner • Dismount, reins over horse's head, lead in hand 	Mount <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check cinch, throatlatch, chin strap; adjust stirrup if required. • mount facing horse's side or same direction horse is facing. • reins in left hand, on neck, as you would hold once mounted. • right hand on horn, left foot in stirrup parallel to horse. • rise straight up, all weight in stirrup, lift leg over cantle, lightly sit down. Dismount <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weight to ball of left foot, left hand on neck, right hand on horn, swing right leg over & step down, remove left foot from stirrup.
B.2 POSITION		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Position: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk • Jog • Lope 	Walk - light contact, basic position i.e. straight line from ear through heel, quiet upper body, weight evenly distributed throughout seat, hips & thighs, heels down. Jog – light contact, similar body position to walk. Lope – position alters little, -solid centered seat, no pumping, absorb movement up through body, shoulders square.
B.3 RIDING (OTHER)		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Demonstration & Explanation of Aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk • Jog • Lope 	Walk - legs apply equal pressure, release upon response, repeat if needed. Jog - legs apply equal pressure, release upon response, repeat if needed. Lope - outside leg back, inside leg at cinch, corrective rein aids prior

		to transition, “kiss”, outside leg applies pressure, release pressure upon response, maintain impulsion with both legs. Rider recognizes if on incorrect lead, but may not achieve correct lead.
2	Demonstration & Explanation of Aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop • Back-up 	Stop – sit deep, “whoa”, two direct reins if required, with give & take action. Back up – apply two (2) direct reins with give & take action, both legs if needed to initiate but release with response, two (2) beat diagonal movement.
3	Demonstration & Explanation of Aids: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Rein • Direct Rein 	Open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • leading rein, bends horse towards rein & into large circle or change of direction, rein hand out & to the side. • off (outside) reins gives so not to interfere, with response - release pressure. Direct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rein pressure applied towards rider’s hips; one (1) rein tips head towards shoulder, two (2) reins tip nose to chest; with response – release pressure. • used to stop, back up, flex, correct and make transitions. • give and take pressure is used for both open and direct rein aids as needed.
4	Overall Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall authority, safety and confidence, rider conduct, ability to maintain safe riding distance in ride formation. 	Safety, knowledge of aids and a willingness to learn about the horse/pony should be emphasized at this level.

LEARN TO RIDE - WESTERN LEVEL 2 RUBRIC

A STABLE MANAGEMENT		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	List five (5) desirable and five (5) undesirable points of conformation.	
2	Identify five (5) different characteristics of teeth used to age a horse.	
3	Describe how to recognize frontend lameness in a horse.	
4	Indicate location of and describe five (5) unsoundness's or blemishes.	
5	List four (4) effective parasite control management practices.	
6	Name the three (3) most important factors to take into consideration when purchasing a horse.	
7	List the protective equipment a horse should always wear when trailering and describe the process of loading a horse onto a trailer.	
8	Name and describe two (2) vices.	
9	Discuss how a rider's attitude and aids can have a positive or negative effect on a horse.	

B RIDING PHASE		
B.1 RAIL WORK		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Rail work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One handed position • Transitions 	Rein hand in front of horn, thumb on top, free arm parallel to other arm, shoulders square, light contact. Transitions – smooth, horse responds in 3 – 6 steps. Ridden in one hand in a curb bit.
B.2 POSITION		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Position (Balance of test ridden in two hands in snaffle or curb bit): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk • Jog • Posting Trot • Lope 	Walk – light contact, basic position, quiet upper body, weight evenly distributed throughout seat, hips & thighs, heels down. Jog – light contact, similar body position to walk. Posting Trot – slightly inclined upper body, seat moves forward/up and back/down in a two (2) beat rhythm, sit softly, hands still.

		Lope – position alters little from walk/jog, -solid centered seat, no pumping, absorb movement up through body, shoulders square.
B.3 RIDING		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Posting Trot & Diagonals.	Posting Trot – start from jog, legs apply equal pressure to produce an increase of stride length to a trot, release upon response, repeat if necessary, rider’s upper body changes to posting position. Diagonals – correct diagonal is maintained and changed smoothly as needed i.e. rider sits when outside front leg and inside hind leg are on the ground.
2	Recognition of leads & controlled change of speed on a circle.	Leads– rider can recognize which lead the horse is on within five (5) to six (6) strides & change to the correct one if needed. Change speed on a circle– rider can smoothly transition to an increased pace of the lope by applying pressure with both legs, releasing upon response, inclining the upper body slightly forward, softening the rein contact and back to a slower lope by sitting upright, applying two (2) direct reins if needed, using two (2) legs to maintain the impulsion of the lope.
3	Rein Aid: • Neck (Indirect) Rein	Two (2) Hands - apply a rein lightly against the neck on the opposite side to the direction of travel, and an open rein aid on the other side, neck rein hand does not cross over the neck. One (1) Hand – rein hand moves in the direction of travel, applying a light rein contact to the neck. The leg opposite to the direction of travel can apply pressure as needed.
4	Leg yielding	At the walk, the horse moves forward and sideways with a straight body in a diagonal direction - rider applies leg pressure behind the cinch on the opposite side to the direction of travel, two (2) direct reins keep neck straight or flexes head away from movement. Rider keeps weight centered in saddle
5	Overall Safety: • Overall authority, safety and confidence, rider conduct, ability to maintain safe riding distance in ride formation.	Safety, knowledge of aids and a willingness to learn about the horse/pony should be emphasized at this level.

A STABLE MANAGEMENT		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Describe & explain proper procedure for cleaning a wound.	Describe and explain appropriate cleaning according to the severity of a wound, how much it is bleeding, what type of wound i.e. open, puncture, shallow, deep, when to call a vet.
2	Describe causes, symptoms and first aid treatment of one horse illness (selected by Evaluator).	
3	List five (5) characteristics of an unhealthy horse.	Change from normal appearance or actions.
4	Normal range for a healthy horse at rest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature • Pulse • Respiration 	Demonstrate & explain how to detect horse temperature, pulse and respiration rates to determine normal range.
5	Demonstrate & explain a capillary refill test & skin pinch test.	
6	Discuss three (3) types of bits and their uses.	Name some bits within the categories & outline their uses, where they pressure the horse's anatomy, and describe how the reins are attached to the bit.
7	Demonstrate the following bandages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stable. • Shipping. • Tail. 	Apply each bandage with correct materials, tension, neatness and explain its purpose, length of time left on.
8	List three (3) yearly health programs to minimize the chance of a horse becoming ill.	

B RIDING PHASE		
B.1 RAIL WORK		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Riding position and control at walk.	Position becoming more consistently correct, rider softly controls rhythm and forward motion, rider beginning to show ability to anticipate problems and uses appropriate corrections.
2	Riding position and control at jog.	Same as walk.
3	Riding position and control at lope.	Same as walk, jog.

4	Transitions.	Transitions are becoming controlled, balanced, and timely.
5	Demonstrate and describe rein of opposition.	Rein aid to correct shoulder, used with two (2) hands, rein on side of shoulder to be corrected is moved diagonally toward rider's opposite shoulder, the other rein is either direct or open. Horse's head can be flexed opposite, in the same direction or straight.
B.2 PATTERNS		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Walk and Stop.	Horse walks forward into stop, stop starts from hind legs first.
2	Turn on Forehand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right. • Left. 	Right – horse's head moves to right while weighting & turning around inside right foreleg, horse's right hind leg crosses in front of left hind leg, rider's right leg pushes horse's hips to the left, rider sits upright looking in direction of travel, two (2) direct reins keep neck straight; head moves in direction of turn. Left – opposite of right.
3	Jog.	
4	Rising Trot Figure 8.	Jog to centre, rising trot circle to right, change rising diagonal at centre, rising trot circle to left, trot is forward & rhythmical, circles are symmetrical.
5	Stop and Back up.	Stop hind legs first, back in diagonal pairs, five (5) steps, straight, rounded back, willing.
6	Lope circle right: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large fast. • Small slow. 	Different circle sizes & round shape, correct lead & bend, definite speed difference, control, willing, maintain rhythm.
7	Turn on Haunches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right. • Left. 	Right – rider applies left neck rein and right open rein, horse's head moves to right, horse's left foreleg crosses in front of right foreleg as horse weights & turns around inside right hind leg, rider sits upright looking in direction of travel, rider uses left leg to help move shoulders or to keep horse's weight on inside hind leg as needed. Left – opposite of right.
8	Lope circle left: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large fast. • Small slow. 	As for right but to left.
9	Stop.	Stop starts from hind legs, horse does not fall on forehand, and horse's back does not hollow.

A STABLE MANAGEMENT		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	List and explain 3 things to build a barn/stable.	Location, drainage, prevailing winds, climate, local government regulations, zoning and building codes, access to paddocks and pastures, manure disposal, hay delivery.
2	List and explain 3 considerations in the interior design of a stable.	Ventilation; safe heights/clearances for electrical outlets, windows and door latches; acceptable stall size & flooring; width and height of aisles & doorways; aisle flooring; grain, hay and bedding storage; water supply.
3	Explain why a horse needs exercise and how it is given.	Maintain acceptable weight, mental well-being, expend excess energy, condition for riding. Reasonable turn-out time, regular exercise being ridden, lunging when appropriate.
4	Discuss turnout, conduct, attitude & safety around horses.	Rider turnout - Safe appropriate clothing including footwear, jeans, shirt, recommend helmet. Professional, respectful, prompt, honest, supportive, on-going education and updating, modeling appropriate behavior, humane and safe conduct at all times. Equine turnout – ample turnout in pasture/paddock in safe secure enclosure with access to water, salt/minerals and shelter.

B LUNGING		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Equipment.	Protective bandages on all legs (recommend bell boots on front legs) Appropriate lunge line (without chain) & whip; well-fitting halter or cavesson. Handler wearing gloves no spurs. Lunge line snap is moved to halter’s centre ring during direction change while reins are held for security/safety. Handler may request assistant to hold whip during tack or direction change.
2	Control at all gaits.	Handler maintains triangle of control position with little movement;

		Handler's body language/verbal instruction effective. Circle size and shape are appropriate and fairly consistent; Smooth, controlled transitions, horse responds well (timely); Whip and lunge line are used safely, effectively and efficiently; Lunge line avoids touching the ground during lunging session; Appropriate corrections are made in a timely fashion with positive results demonstrated; Overall control and safety.
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C RIDING PHASE		
C.1 RAIL WORK		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Riding position and control walk.	Rider consistently able to maintain correct basic position; able to demonstrate some basic collection; applies appropriate, subtle methods of correction as needed; transitions are prompt and smooth; able to maintain rail position in group of horses, maintains quiet rhythm.
2	Riding position and control at jog.	Same as for walk.
3	Riding position and control at lope.	Same as for walk & jog; leads corrected immediately & smoothly if needed.
4	Transitions.	Transitions are fluid, controlled, balanced, and timely.
C.2 PATTERN		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Turn on forehand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right. • Left. 	Right: horse's head moves to right while weighting & turning around inside right foreleg, horse's right hind leg crosses in front of left hind leg with rhythm, rider's right leg pushes horse's hips to the left, rider sits upright looking in direction of travel, 2 direct reins keep neck straight, horse's head turns in the direction of travel. Left: opposite of right. Able to demonstrate some collection in movement.
2	Rising Trot Figure 8.	Rise on appropriate diagonal, smooth change of direction and diagonal with bend change, forward moving trot with some collection, symmetrical circles of appropriate size for horse.
3	Stop and Back up.	Stop behind first, back in diagonal pairs, rounded back demonstrating some collection, willing, not on forehand.
4	Lope right circles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large fast. • Small slow. 	Symmetrical circle size & shape, correct lead & bend, definite speed difference, control, compliance, rhythm; collected frame in small slow circle, extended frame in large fast circle.
5	Turn on Haunches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right. 	Right: Rider applies left neck rein and right open rein, horse's head moves to right, horse's left foreleg crosses with rhythm in front of

		<p>right foreleg as horse weights & turns around inside right hind leg, rider sits upright looking in direction of travel, rider uses left leg to help move shoulders or to keep horse's weight on inside hind leg as needed.</p> <p>Able to demonstrate some collection in movement.</p>
6	<p>Lope left circles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large fast. • Small slow. 	As for right but to left.
7	<p>Turn on Haunches :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Left. 	Opposite of right turn on haunches.
8	Lope Figure 8.	Bend, control, simple lead changes through jog/walk with some collection, symmetrical circles.
9	<p>Two-track:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right. • Left 	<p>Right: Left leg behind the cinch moves horse sideways as seat and right leg at the cinch move horse forward in a diagonal direction with rhythm and smoothness ; left direct rein keeps neck straight, right direct rein flexes head to right; upper body stays upright; both hind and front legs cross.</p> <p>Some collection shown in movement.</p> <p>Left: As for right but to left.</p>
10	<p>Side-pass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right. • Left. 	<p>Right: Left leg behind the cinch moves horse sideways as seat and right leg at the cinch move horse forward in a diagonal direction with rhythm and smoothness; left direct rein keeps neck straight, right direct rein flexes head to right; both hind and front left legs cross in front of respective right legs; horse has flexion in direction of travel; rider's upper body stays upright.</p> <p>Some collection shown in movement.</p> <p>Left: As for right but to left.</p>

A BANDAGING		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Spider Bandage.	<p>Tension – even tension; follows contour of leg.</p> <p>Effectiveness – holds cotton; covers wound; allows leg movement; will stay in place.</p> <p>Proper Application – well padded & appropriate size; knots neat, secure, covered & on outside of leg; supported by a stable bandage (opposing leg also stable bandaged).</p> <p>Neatness – both bandages blend smoothly; stable bandage wraps of equal width & end on outside of leg; equipment clean.</p>
2	Figure 8 Bandages.	<p>Tension – even tension; does not impinge on tendon/knee/hock.</p> <p>Effectiveness – covers wound; allows leg movement; will stay in place.</p> <p>Proper Application – well padded; ends on outside of leg away from joint, secure with stable bandages as above.</p> <p>Neatness – Both bandages blend smoothly, wraps of equal width and end on outside of leg away from joint; bandages clean.</p>
3	Hoof Bandage.	<p>Tension – no pressure points on bulbs or coronet band.</p> <p>Effectiveness – covers wound/dressing; protects, endures & holds in place.</p> <p>Proper Application – padded appropriately over sensitive areas; proper wound treatment; cover with durable outer material.</p> <p>Neatness – no loose ends to catch; good traction for horse.</p>
4	Exercise Bandage.	<p>Tension – even tension appropriate to exercise bandage; no pressure points.</p> <p>Effectiveness – provides protection & support; does not interfere with movement; will stay in place.</p> <p>Proper Application – no wrinkles; towards back & inside of leg; well padded ; bandage secured on outside of leg away from joint; ¼ - ½ “ cotton above and below bandage; “V” in front of bandage when ergot “cupped”; if tape used – no overlap.</p> <p>Neatness – cottons flat & smooth; bandage wraps of equal width; cottons and wrap clean.</p>
5	Polo Rundown.	<p>Tension – even tension; just able to push 1 finger down inside of</p>

		<p>bandage & rotate around back of leg. Effectiveness – protects &/or supports leg; will stay in place. Proper Application – no wrinkles; wrap towards back & to inside of leg; cups ergot with “V” in front; ends on outside of leg away from joint. Neatness – bandage smooth and clean; even width of wraps.</p>
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B LUNGING		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Equipment adjustment and effectiveness.	<p>Protective boots or bandages on all legs (highly recommend bell boots on front legs). Appropriate lunge line (without chain) & whip; well-fitting halter or cavesson. Effective adjustment of side reins when in use; no side reins contact for direction change. Handler wearing gloves no spurs. Lunge line snap is moved to halter’s centre ring during direction change while reins are held for safety.</p>
2	Upward Transitions.	<p>Handler encourages horse to drive forward from behind in smooth, controlled transitions. Horse responds well (timely); Improves with the use of side reins.</p>
3	Downward Transitions.	<p>Horse does not fall on forehand, engages hind end; Horse responds well (timely). Improves with the use of side reins.</p>
4	Handler’s Position.	<p>Handler maintains “triangle of control” position with little movement; uses corrective movements if necessary. Handler’s body language/verbal instruction is appropriate and effective. Circle size and shape are appropriate and fairly consistent.</p>
5	Handler’s Control.	<p>Whip and lunge line are used safely, effectively and efficiently, assistant can hold whip during changes. Lunge line avoids touching the ground during lunging session; Appropriate corrections are made in a timely fashion with positive results demonstrated. Overall control and safety.</p>
6	Young Horse – oral.	<p>Handler can explain different expectations/methods for a young horse being lunged.</p>
7	Difficult Horse – oral.	<p>Handler explains how lunging can benefit a difficult horse; outlines appropriate methods. Handler’s explanations and methods are correct.</p>

C RIDING PHASE		
C.1 RAIL WORK		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Warm Up/Effectiveness.	Candidate warms up appropriately for rail work. Methods produce effective results.
2	Upward Transitions.	Transitions are fluid, controlled, and timely.
3	Downward Transitions.	Transitions are controlled, balanced, and timely.
4	Collection.	Collection is fairly consistent, balanced, and appropriate to horse type (not discipline specific).
C.2 PATTERN		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Warm Up/Effectiveness.	Candidate warms up appropriately for each pattern maneuver.
2	Accuracy.	Maneuvers in order; at appropriate locations; pattern is fluid.
3	Collection.	Consistent, appropriate, effortless.
4	Maneuvers.	Well performed, balanced, accurate, and technically correct.
C.3 MANEUVER		
No.	Requirements	Evidences
1	Method.	Technically correct; can explain why this method if questioned.
2	Result.	Appropriate corrections, appropriate exercises, maneuver improved.
3	Collection.	Fairly consistent throughout correction exercises.